

**Utah Martin Luther King, Jr. Human Rights Commission**  
**University of Utah**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 2015**

**MLK Attendees:** Adrienne Andrews, Dr. Forrest Crawford, Luis Garza, Dr. Rob Harter, Nkoyo Iyamba, Dr. Karen Johnson, Carla Kelley, Jasen Lee, Beth Martial, Robert Rendon

**Guests:** Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Neelam Chand, Dr. Dolores Calderon, Jenny Hor, Irene Ota, Dr. Laurence Parker, Dr. Clayton Pierce, Dr. Susie Porter, Dr. Belinda Saltiban, Dr. Kathryn Stockton, Tricia Sugiyama

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**Welcome – Dr. Rob Harter**

Dr. Rob Harter welcomed attendees to the meeting.

**Introductions**

Commission members and University of Utah guests introduced themselves.

**Open Discussion – Commission and Guests**

Neelam Chand shared details on the university's MLK celebrations. The theme for this year's events focuses on social activism. The week begins with a march and rally from East High School to Kingsbury Hall. Notable guests include: Mia McKenzie, founder of Black Girl Dangerous; Truth Cypher, local spoken word group; and Talib Kweli, hip-hop and spoken word artist.

Dr. Kathryn Stockton reported the university is currently hiring more diverse faculty as an initiative has been put in place. Additionally, the Office for Equity and Diversity continues to have ongoing conversations with students to create sustained partnerships.

Dr. Dolores Calderon shared her experiences of how she and her husband were personally targeted by a recent hate crime. The incident involved a swastika being placed on her lawn. A police report was filed but a follow up by police has not occurred. Commission members and university guests stated that the current legislation on hate crimes lacks substance. No one in the state has been convicted of a hate crime under the current legislation.

The following ideas were suggested in response to the hate crime incident:

- Proceeding with the case through a federal route
- Greater police training in responding to hate crimes
- Garnering support from local groups to advocate for anti-racism

**Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION:** Jasen Lee motioned to approve the minutes from October 7, 2015. Carla Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

**Subcommittee Updates – Commission Discussion**

**Program Subcommittee**

The program begins at 10:00 AM. Representative Sandra Hollins is a confirmed speaker in addition to Reverend Brandee Jasmine Mimitraiem who will provide the keynote address. Youth speakers include the winners of the Davis School District MLK speech contest. An invitation has been sent to Lt. Governor Spencer J. Cox to speak. Additionally, the commission will reach out to 7 schools to be in attendance. Each school is asked to bring 30 students and 2 educators. The end of the event will be a call to action in which each attendee will write their thoughts on sticky notes.

**Archives Subcommittee**

Dr. Forrest Crawford informed the commission the Utah Historical Society officially committed his MLK items to their archives. For the anniversary event, he is requesting to have moving panels or posters to display the documents he submitted. He wants to determine the best way to select the most important documents to display.

A suggestion was made to have current commission members personally invite former members. Contact would be made with the Governor's Office to request for the list of previous commission members.

#### Fundraising Subcommittee

Robert Rendon gave a verbal commitment that he is confident Zions Bank will donate \$5,000. He stated he will follow up with organizations on their commitments.

Currently, confirmed donations include:

- Dr. Forrest Crawford - \$400
- Industrial Supplies - \$500

Verbal commitments include:

- University of Utah African American Division of Ethnic Studies Program - \$300
- Weber State University (honorarium for keynote speaker) - \$400
- Industrial Supplies (matching donation) - \$500

#### Media Subcommittee

Nkoyo Iyamba shared that Channel 4 news and the Salt Lake Tribune have been contacted about the event. She is hoping to schedule a few commission members to join her for a taping on her show. Jasen Lee agreed to draft the wording for the appreciation awards.

Additionally, Nkoyo suggested inviting law enforcement officials to attend the next commission meeting to have a discussion on building better police and community relations. Commission members were asked to bring a food item for a potluck lunch.

#### Adjourn

**MOTION:** Beth Martial motioned to adjourn the meeting. Adrienne Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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#### Action Items

The next MLK meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2015 from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. in the Rio Grande Board Room.

Upcoming Meetings (first Wednesdays of every month in the Rio Board Room):

January 5  
February 3  
March 2  
April 6  
May 4  
June 1  
July 6  
August 3  
September 7  
October 5  
November 2  
December 7